

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for forming a cast article, the method comprising:

providing a photosensitive film, the film comprising at least one layer containing a photosensitive material;

5 selectively exposing at least a portion of the photosensitive material of the film;

removing a portion of the layer containing the photosensitive material, the removed portion corresponding to either the exposed or unexposed portion of the photosensitive material, to form a relief surface in the film; and

applying a casting material to the relief surface to form a cast article.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive material is developable with aqueous media.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive material comprises a

15 photopolymer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive material comprises a photoinitiator and a monomer, an oligomer, or a combination of monomer and oligomer.

20 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the photosensitive material comprises an ethylenically unsaturated material.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the photosensitive material comprises an acrylate material.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive material comprises a water-soluble, photosensitive vinyl polymer.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the water soluble, photosensitive vinyl polymer comprises a polyvinyl alcohol polymer.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive layer comprises less than 75% by weight of a water soluble, photosensitive vinyl polymer having pendent hydroxyl groups and being capable of photo-generated insolubility and less than 75 weight percent of a polymeric film-forming binder.

10. The method of claim 3, wherein the photopolymer has pendant, photo-crosslinkable, styryl groups.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive material comprises less than 50 weight percent of a photopolymer, about 30 to 90 weight percent of a binder resin, and about 0 to 40 weight percent of a compatible plasticizers.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the photosensitive material comprises about 15 to 50 weight percent of a photopolymer having pendant, photo-crosslinkable, styryl

groups, about 50 to 80 weight percent of a binder resin, and about 0 to 15 weight percent of a compatible plasticizer;

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the first layer further comprises a plasticizer.

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14. The method of claim 1, wherein the laminate further comprises a support layer.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the first layer of the laminate is from 1 to 100 mils thick.

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16. The method of claim 1, wherein the photosensitive laminate film is flexible.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the casting material is selected from the group consisting of plaster, polymeric resins, uv-curable materials, and low-melting point metals.

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18. The method of claim 1, wherein the casting material is used to form a flexographic printing plate.

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19. A cast article formed using the method of claim 1.

20. The cast article of claim 19, wherein the article is a flexographic plate.